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WEDNESDAY
MAY 6, 1953

The Embassy sent over a telegram this morning dispatched yesterday by Ambassador Dillon to the Department saying they were informed by an unofficial source that Bidault was preparing a note on the subject of a four-power conference regarding disarmament. I went over to see Doug and -- told him of my conversation last night with Bidault. If the note is cleared by the French Government and dispatched, it will present an important last-minute problem for Messrs. Dulles and Stassen, who are departing on Friday of this week for a three-week tour of the Middle East.

René Plevén came for lunch with me. He believes there will be a majority in Parliament for the EDC if it can be forced to a vote. In order to do this, the Government would have to make it the first priority of business which, in the existing economic situation of France, does not appear probable. However, when Parliament reconvenes on May 12 the present Government will stake its life on a series of new financial-economic proposals and then it or a succeeding Government can face the EDC problem more realistically. He is concerned, as I am, with the continuing frustrations which have now existed for years, brought about by the lack of real executive authority in this country. He was pleased with his American trip and especially by his conversation with President Eisenhower, whom he found aware of and sympathetic to French difficulties.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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